

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGUI 01100 161603Z

67

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SS-20 NSC-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SPC-03 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 CPR-02 DRC-01 ARA-16

/173 W

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R 161435Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY BANGUI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4372

INFO AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PORT

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGUI 1100

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CT

SUBJECT: BOKASSA FLAILS INTERNAL CRITICS, ANNOUNCES
POSTPONEMENT OF TRIPS TO US AND HAITI

REF BANGUI 1095

1. FOLLOWING HIS UNHERALDED RETURN FROM FRANCE OCT 14
(REFTEL), BOKASSA MADE SERIES OF LONG, ANGRY RADIO SPEECHES
IN NATIONAL LANGUAGE SANGO OCT 15 FLAILING CRITICS WHO HE
CLAIMED WERE BLAMING HIM FOR RECENT ROW INVOLVING NON-PAY-
MENT OF GOCAR CIVIL SERVANTS' SALARIES. WHILE NOT NAMING
ANYONE IN PARTICULAR, HE POINTED FINGER AT THOSE CENTRAL
AFRICANS WHO HE SAID TOOK ADVANTAGE OF HIS ABSENCE TO CREATE
TROUBLE FOR HIM AND FOR COUNTRY AND WHO WISHED TO USE INCIDENT
TO HARM OR OVERTHROW HIM. HE DENIED ALLEGED CHARGES THAT
TREASURY WAS SHORT OF MONEY BECAUSE HE HAD TAKEN SO
MUCH FOR HIS TRIPS ABROAD. HE CRITICIZED TREASURY
OFFICIALS AND MINISTERS IN GENERAL FOR HANDLING OF PROBLEM
AND AT ONE POINT ACCUSED POLICE AND GENDARMERIE OF PLANNING
TO ACT AGAINST HIM ALSO.

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2. DURING COURSE OF ONE SPEECH, BOKASSA NOTED THAT HE HAD

MADE HIS SCHEDULED TRIP TO BELGIUM FOLLOWING ALGIERS CONFERENCE BUT HAD HAD TO POSTPONE HIS TRIPS TO HAITI AND U.S. BECAUSE OF ARAB-ISRAELI WAR. HE MENTIONED THIS ONLY IN PASSING AND DID NOT DWELL FURTHER ON SUBJECT OF HIS TRIPS OR MID-EAST CRISIS.

3. COMMENT: THERE HAVE BEEN REPORTS OF LONG DELAYS IN PAYMENTS OF CIVIL SERVANTS IN PROVINCES, AND PAYMENTS TO THOSE IN BANGUI WERE ALSO DELAYED FOR A WHILE LAST MONTH, CAUSING DISCERNIBLE GRUMBLING HERE. BOKASSA IS APPARENTLY STUNG BY BLAME BEING PUT ON HIM DURING HIS ABSENCE AND FOR MOMENT AT LEAST SEEMS TO BE FOCUSING ON THIS DOMESTIC PROBLEM RATHER THAN FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

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